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DANIEL P. MOYNIHAN
NEW YORK

Human Rights

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

7-21-77 Recd

ACTION
is assigned to
EA

The enclosed inquiry is from a constituent of mine. Would you please respond?

Please send to me your written answer in duplicate, along with the letter from my constituent.

Thank you!

Daniel P. Moynihan

United States Senator

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cc: Lee H. Ball
RE: Political prisoners in South Korea - Rev. Ik-Whan Moon - Kim Dae Jung + Yu Bae Noong

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THE REVEREND LEE H. BALL

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Executive Secretary Emeritus
Methodist Federation
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Secretary
Westchester People's
Action Coalition

Chairman
Yonkers People
for Peace

Treasurer
American Committee for
Protection of Foreign Born

Member of the Board
Promoting Enduring Peace

June 26, 1977

My dear Senator Moynihan:

The Rev. Ik-Whan Moon, in prison in South Korea, fasted from May 15 to June 7, and is very weak.

Please do all you can to get him transferred from the Chŭn Joo Prison in Chun-Puk to a hospital.

Two other prisoners are not well--Kim Dae Jung and Yun Ban Noong. Lee Hae Hak, a lay preacher, is on a hunger strike, with students, in Ahn Yang Prison.

Please use your efforts to alleviate conditions, and to obtain release, for Ik-Whan Moon and these other political prisoners.

Very hopefully yours,

Lee H Ball

Saturday Review World

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No. 257

Who Owns the Ozone?

The ozone in the stratosphere is no less vital in sustaining life than the oxygen in the atmosphere. The ozone shield protects living things against the destructive effects of ultraviolet rays. In particular, ozone prevents the sun's rays from tearing apart protein molecules in plant and animal life.

We now learn that the test explosions of thermonuclear bombs by the United States and the Soviet Union in 1960 and 1961 punctured the stratosphere, resulting in a 4 percent loss of ozone. The loss may be irreversible. The disclosure comes from Dr. Fred C. Iklé, director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

No figures have been released, assuming they are available, about the effects on the ozone of nuclear testing by France and the People's Republic of China. Both countries have persisted with nuclear explosions despite worldwide protests. If the human race had 96 percent of its life-supporting ozone left after the United States and the Soviet Union got through with it, how much is left now? Ninety percent? Eighty percent? How much would be left after a full-scale nuclear war?

Dr. Iklé has explained that the heat produced by a nuclear explosion results in the formation of nitric oxides. As the atomic cloud rises, the nitric oxide molecules destroy the ozone molecules. The resultant loss of ozone could create all sorts of havoc with the delicate and intricate chain of life on earth.

Much remains to be known. No one yet has any definite knowledge about the critical limits; that is, precisely how much ozone is necessary to sustain human life. Dr. Iklé says that too many punctures could "destroy critical links of the intricate food chain of plants and animals, and thus shatter the ecological structure that permits man to remain alive on this planet."

Meanwhile, one thing is obvious. The nuclear tests of 1960 and 1961 represented no more than one or two percent of the total megatonnage of nuclear power now stockpiled by the United States, the Soviet Union, China, France, Great Britain, and India. The existing nuclear stores, if used, would create more than enough nitric oxide to obliterate the ozone.

Under these circumstances, even the possession of nuclear explosives is an explicit crime against humanity and should clearly be recognized as such by world public opinion. The notion that these ozone-altering weapons are essential for national security makes no sense unless we take the view that the right to wage nuclear war is more important than human rights, more important than the need to preserve the human habitat, more important than the future of civilization, more important than our obligations to generations to come.

Justifying the nuclear-arms race on the basis of national security is no more rational than justifying a race to drill the largest holes in the opposite ends of a lifeboat. In a very real sense, all the peoples in the world today are adrift in such a lifeboat. The Americans are at one end, the Russians at the other, the rest of the world's people in between. The fact of a common peril has yet to penetrate the minds of the boat's occupants. The only chance for survival is through recognition of a common destiny. Yet the leaders are seized by the idea that they can safeguard their own sections of the same boat by threatening to drill larger holes in the enemy's section than the enemy can drill in theirs.

THE PRIME failure of modern society is that it has neither the philosophy nor the institutions to deal with crimes against humanity itself. Public fear and indignation are aroused by palpable things—a woman assaulted in a doorway, the hijacking of a plane, the terrorist bombing of a school bus, Watergates. But the conversion of masses of men into killers, the disfiguration of human values on a mammoth scale by governments themselves, the diversion of natural resources and human energies into the means of senseless total destruction, the assault on the conditions of life, the puncturing of the ozone layer—these are towering crimes. The failure to see them as such is a danger in itself.

The governments persist in their policies despite the fact that no nation can wage nuclear war against another without also going to war against the human race. Even the preparation for such a conflict is tantamount to an act of war against the species. Yet there is no institution in this world that can pull the nations back from the brink, that can define crimes against humanity and act against the criminals, that is capable of making and carrying out moral judgments, or that can uphold the rights of the next generation.

No need on earth today compares in urgency or size with the need to create such an institution. The United Nations is the closest we have come to it, but the curious notion persists that a world organization can only reflect, and not transcend, world differences. The main business of the United Nations is human survival. Any lesser concept perpetuates the present insanity. N.C.

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